The Genus *Emboros* Burr (Dermaptera: Forficulidae)

By A. Brindle*

The genus *Emboros* Burr includes a few medium-sized species of earwigs which usually have short elytra and are without visible wings, only one known species having the elytra and wings fully developed. With one exception the species are endemic to Madagascar, but the exception is the type species of the genus *Emboros dubia* (Bormans) from Burma, originally described as *Opisthocosmia dubia,* and subsequently recorded from Madagascar.

The Madagascan Dermaptera are mainly endemic and there is scarcely any connection between the fauna of Madagascar and that of the Oriental Region as regards this order, so there was a possibility that the type of *dubia* would be generically distinct (Brindle, 1969). An opportunity has arisen to check the true *dubia,* and this has shown that *dubia* cannot be retained in *Emboros.*

Emboros was erected by Burr (1907) with type species *Opisthocosmia dubia* Bormans 1894, but the type female, the only known specimen, had not been seen by Burr, and the generic description is partly taken from the original description. One of the key characters of the genus is that each elytron has a lateral longitudinal ridge, or keel; the elytra are short and the wings absent or concealed. Burr (1910) gives further details of the genus and species and cites a pair of earwigs in the Paris Museum from Diego Suarez, Madagascar, which he named as *Opisthocosmia dubia.* He further states that although the genus *Emboros* was erected "for de Bormans *dubia*", it is "characterised by that pair from Diego Suarez", and remarks that "this characterisation agrees in every particular with the original description of de Bormans, except that he does not refer to the keel of the elytra. As he never made use of this character in any of his work, it is probable that he overlooked it . . . " Burr thought that although the Diego Suarez specimens belonged to the same genus as the true *dubia,* they may be specifically distinct, in which case the pair from Madagascar would require a new name.

I am indebted to Dr. Roberto Poggi, of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genoa, for details of the type of *dubia,* and a drawing of the left elytron of the type; he states that the elytra have no lateral longitudinal ridges, and his drawing clearly shows that the dorsal surface of the elytron curves smoothly over into the lateral part without any ridge (fig. 2). I am also indebted to Monsieur M. Donskoff, of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, for the loan of the original specimens from Diego Suarez, named as *Opisthocosmia dubia* by Burr. The elytra of these specimens have a clearly defined lateral longitudinal ridge which runs along the length of the elytra (fig. 4). In cross section the difference between the elytra of *dubia* and those of the Diego Suarez specimens can be

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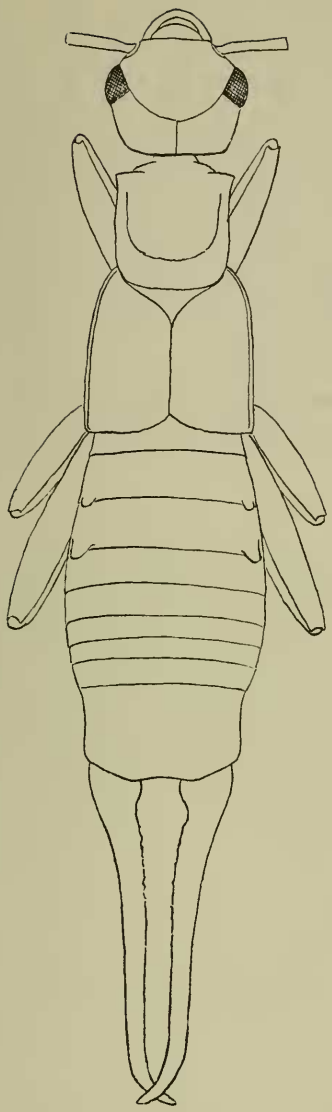

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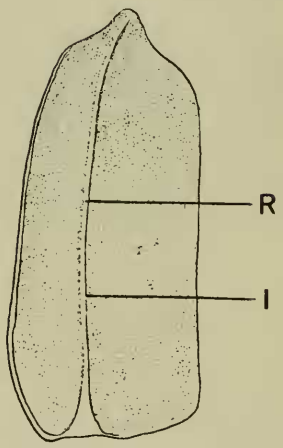

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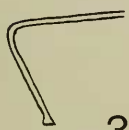

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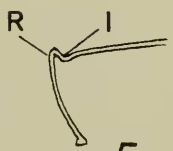

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Fig. 1, *Emboros madagascariensis* sp. n. (holotype male). Figs. 2, 4, lateral view of left elytron — 2, *Opistocosmia dubia* (after drawing by Dr. Roberto Poggi) — 4, *Emboros madagascariensis*. Figs. 3, 5, cross section of left elytron, diagrammatic — 3, *O. dubia* — 5, *E. madagascariensis* (R=lateral longitudinal ridge; I=impressed line)